## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

R. SAITO, et al.

Application No.:

Rule 1.53(b) Continuation of U.S. Patent Application

Serial No. 10/302,953, filed November 25, 2002

Filed:

On Even Date Herewith

For:

SEMICONDUCTOR MEMORY DEVICE AND METHOD

OF OPERATION THEREOF

Art Group of Parent:

2818

Examiner of Parent:

T. Q. Phan

## REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW PRIOR TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH MPEP § 713.02

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 March 24, 2004

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 713.02, which states:

"A request for interview prior to first Office Action is ordinarily granted in continuing or substitute applications,"

applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview prior to first Office Action in this continuation application. With regard to this, applicants are in the process of preparing new claims for the Examiner's consideration, which will be discussed during the interview. Applicants and the undersigned attorney greatly appreciate the Examiner's consideration in this regard.

Docket No.: 503.30370CC8

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of, either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 503.30370CC8).

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

Gregory E. Montone

Reg. No. 28,141

GEM/dlt 1300 North Seventeenth Street, Suite 1800

Arlington, Virginia 22209

Telephone: (703) 312-6600 Facsimile: (703) 312-6666